UHD STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the UHD Scholars Academy

Friday, April 17, 2009

Conference Co-Chairs:
Dr. Gene Preuss, Assistant Professor of History, UHD
Dr. Jeong-Mi Yoon, Associate Professor of Mathematics, UHD

Conference Planning Committee:
Dr. Richard Alo, Executive Director, UHD Center for Computational Science, Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Ermelinda DeLaVina, Associate Professor of Mathematics, UHD
Dr. Vicky Estrera, Director, UHD Scholars Academy
Dr. Weining Feng, Associate Professor of Engineering Technology, UHD
Mr. Rene Garcia, Program Manager, UHD Scholars Academy
Dr. Kenneth Johnson, Assistant Professor of Geology, UHD
Dr. Marilyn McShane, Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of the Institute for Community Justice, UHD
Dr. Lisa Morano, Associate Professor of Biology and Microbiology, UHD
Dr. Kenneth Oberhoff, Assoc. Dean, UHD College of Sciences & Technology
Dr. George Pincus, Dean, UHD College of Sciences and Technology
Dr. Dr. Max Castillo, President, University of Houston-Downtown
Welcoming Remarks, UHD Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium
9:35 am Dr. Clete Snell, Chair and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, UHD
Introduction of Keynote Speaker, Auditorium
9:40 - 10:10 am Vicki King, Assistant Chief of Police
Houston Police Department
Keynote Speaker, Auditorium
10:15 - 11:15 am Oral Presentations, Session I, Auditorium
11:20 - 12:20 pm Oral Presentations, Session II, Auditorium
Introductions by Dr. Vicky Estrera, Director, UHD Scholars Academy
12:20 - 1:30 pm Lunch Break
1:30 - 3:30 pm Open Poster Sessions, Room A300

Poster Presentation Session I (1:30PM-2:15PM):
1 - Diana Candy Abidin, Dwayne Hurd, Emily J. Skinner, “Memory for What, When, and Where in Humans”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Stephanie Babb and Ruth Johnson
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

Poster Presentations:
29 - Alicia Corazon, “On Total Domination and Caro-Wei of Graphs”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ermelinda DeLaVina
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

8th ANNUAL UHD STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

A showcase of academic excellence demonstrated by UHD undergraduates majoring within the Colleges of Business, Humanities and Social Science, Public Service, and Sciences and Technology.

The UHD Scholars Academy (SA) is an academically competitive program in the College of Sciences and Technology (CST) that promotes scholarship and student success for undergraduate students majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

One Main Street, 725-North; Houston TX 77002-1001
Phone: 713-222-5344; Fax: 713-222-5356; scholars@uhd.edu; www.uhd.edu/scholars
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brad Hoge
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

5 - Berenice Alejandre, Nada Kassem, Susana Martinez, “Self-determination Theory: Understanding and Promoting Autonomy in a Hybrid Course”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christine Bachman
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

7 - Mark Bryant Armstrong, “Wants and Needs Analysis of the STC-Houston Job Board”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Aimee K. Roundtree and Wayne Schmadeka
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

9 - Nameera Fatima Baig and Rameshwari Korrapati, “TMOS and Carbon-60 based sensor for the detection of thiocyanates, Nitrites and Nitrates in Environmental and Biological systems using Cyclic Voltammetry”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mian Jiang
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

11 - Araly Barrera, “Assignment of ICD-9-CM Codes from Clinical-Free Medical Text”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ping Chen
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

13 - Brandy Bell and Juana Maria Olvera, “Thermal Analysis of Copper(II) Complexes Based on a New Binucleating 1,6-Diazecine Ligand”
Co-Authors: Dr. Salah S. Massoud, Department of Chemistry, University of Arizona at Lafayette
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janusz Grebowicz
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

15 - Elizabeth Jane Brogan, “eBooks and UHD: Findings from a Feasibility Study”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Aimee K. Roundtree
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

17 - Tung Bui and Marsida Lisi, “Mathematical Modeling of the BMP4 and FGF Signaling Pathways during Neural and Epidermal Development in Xenopus laevis”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Edwin Tecarro and Akif Uzman
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

19 - Wendy Callejas and Juana Maria Olvera, “Thermal analysis of six new species of di-pyridyl ligands with Cu(II)”
Co-Authors: Dr. Salah S. Massoud, Department of Chemistry, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janusz Grebowicz
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

21 - Michael Cannon, Oralio Campos, Estela Castillo, Myrna Moctezuma, “Reversing the Air Pollution in China’s Shanghi District”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Merrilee Cunningham and Ruth Robbins
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

23 - Mirta Castro, Maria Cavazo, Chelsea Davidson, Raymond Rodriguez, “Combating the loss of biodiversity and deforestation with the use of Carbon Credits”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Merrilee Cunningham and Ruth Robbins
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

25 - Audrey Chatman, “Understanding Advertisements across Cultures: A Content Analysis of Consumer-Related Products in the United States and India”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Aimee K. Roundtree
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

27 - Partha P. Choudhury, “The History of Nation-Building in Afghanistan”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

29 - Alicia Corazon, “On Total Domination and Caro-Wei of Graphs”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ermelinda DelaVina
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

31 - Melissa Covington, “An Invitation to the Occasion: How do Birthmothers’ Romantic Partners Participate in Adoption Openness?”
Co-Authors: Dr. Ruth G. McRoy (University of Texas at Austin), Dr. Harold Grotevant (University of Massachusetts at Amherst)
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Henney
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Catherine Shaffer
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

35 - Nicole Dyles, “Cultural Differences and Its’ Effects on Disease Portrayal to Patients”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Aimee K. Roundtree
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

37 - Antoine Ferguson and Jarreth Kitchin, “Thermal Analysis of Oil Shales”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janusz Grebowicz
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

39 - Esmeralda P. Garcia, “Relativistic Ab initio studies of Thorium with Chelating Agents”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Maria Benavides
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

41 - Stacy George, “How Antidepressant Drug Advertisements Create Regimes of Truth about Female Normalcy”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Aimee K. Roundtree
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

43 - Audrey Gonzalez, “Multivariate Data Analysis: Relationship between Environmental Factors and Vector Frequencies Affecting the Spread of Pierce's Disease across Texas”
Co-Authors: Ali Abedi
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Lisa Morano and Jeong-Mi Yoon
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

45 - Michael Keith Grady, Elham Angela Hemmat, Shameika Mendes, “Identifying Student Expectations and Perceptions: A Focus Group Experience”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christine Bachman
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

47 - Sarah Hirsch, “The Marriage and Gender Gap Regarding a Proposed Ban on Handguns”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. David Branham
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kenneth Johnson
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

51 - Jonathan Keele, “E-Learning Agent System with Argumentation Based Negotiation”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Hong Lin
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

53 - Rebecca Kern, “Collection of Collocation Events in Natural Language Processing”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ping Chen
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

55 - Carlos Ramese Lacayo, “Parsing Tree Matching Based Question”
Co-Authors: Timmothy Simmons, Dr. Wei Ding
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ping Chen
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

57 - Liam Thanh Luong, “Improving Web Search Results with a Natural Language Filter”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ali Berrached
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

59 - Lauren R. Mitchell, “Identifying Houston: A Quasi-Discourse Analysis of Complimentary Handouts from the Holocaust Museum Houston”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Aimee K. Roundtree
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

61 - Mustafa Mehmoood, “Relativistic Ab initio Studies of Thorium and Transferrin’s Metal Binding Site Interactions”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Maria Benavides
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

63 - Pantea Mohammadi and Nida Rizvi, “Ionomer Based Device for Environmental Monitoring”
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Mian Jiang and Larry Spears
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

65 - Blayne Mounger and Nicolas Spampinato, “Utilizing Genetically Engineered Escherichia Coli and Clostridium Acetobutylicum for Isoamyl Acetate Production”
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Catherin Shaffer
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Mian Jiang and Larry Spears
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. David Branham  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

**Poster Presentation Session II (2:15PM-3:00PM):**

2 - Tolani Abiola, “Mexico Political Risk”  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

4 - Javier Alamirra and Amber Martinez-Rodriguez, “The Impact of Parental Education on Students at UHD”  
UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Jon Aoki and Vicky Estrella  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

6 - Amy Aleman, “Columbia and its “Para politics””  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

8 - Felipe Ignacio Astorga, “Evolutionary characteristics of Paphiopedium spp. Orchids”  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Marcin Gorniak  
Project Location: University of Gdansk, Poland

UHD Faculty Mentors: Drs. Merrilee Cunningham and Ruth Robbins  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

12 - Brandy Bell and Charles Ryan Jeffcoat, “Stromiunt and Neodymium Isotope Study ofapatite from an Fe-oxide Cu-Au ore deposit, Bullrun Creek District, Oregon”  
Co-Authors: Dr. ZdzislawBelka and J. Dopieralski, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland

14 - Joseph Bradley, “Nigeria Political Risk: Is there Hope in West Africa?”  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

16 - David Mark Brown, “Successful Word Sense Disambiguation Using TreeMatch”  
Co-Authors: Christopher Bowes  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ping Chen  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

18 - Pamala N. Calip, “Health or Wealth?”  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Drs. Patricia Golemon and Aimee K. Roundtree  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

20 - Darena Canizealez, “India Political Risk: Moving towards Technological Innovation”  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Linantud  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

22 - Flor S. Castro, “Evaluating Growth of Xylella fastidiosa Cultures through Biofilm Quantification”  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lisa Morano  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

24 - Melissa Chan, “Carbon Embedded Silicon Dioxide Network for Trace Analysis”  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mian Jiang  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

26 - Melinda Chin and LaToya Green, “Finding the Most Reliable Path in a Complex Network”  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Shengli Yuan  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Byron Christmas  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown

30 - Codie E. Court, “To Tell or Not to Tell: Birthmothers’ Adoption Disclosure to their Romantic Partners”  
Co-Authors: Dr. Ruth G. McCoy (University of Texas at Austin), Dr. Harold Grotevant (University of Massachusetts at Amherst)
90 - Stephanie Thames, “The Effects of Rising Ambient Temperatures on the Polar Bear Population of Alaska”  
Co-Authors: Liliana Garcia, William Golden, Ebony Ivory, Audrey Gonzalez  
UHD Faculty Mentors: Dr. Vicky Estrera, Mitsue Nakamura  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown  

92 - Evelin Vaquiz, “Molecular-based Identification of Bacteria Within Dental Biofilms Before and After Treatment with Commercial Mouthwashes”  
Co-Authors: Natalie Sirisaengtaksin, Karen Martinez  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Poonam Gulati  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown  

94 - Tabitha Ward, “Chemical Fingerprinting of Brewed Coffees as a Tool against Commodities Fraud”  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kenneth Johnson  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown  

96 - Crystal Rhea Wells, “Hispanic Attitudes on NAFTA: The Attitude Gap and the Education Effect on Public Opinion”  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. David Branhman  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown  

98 - Desiree Wilson, “Purification and Thermoanalysis of Phosphonium Salts”  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tyra Montgomery  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown  

100 - Tejinder Yasini, “In-Group/Out-Group Biases of Fans’ Perceptions of Referee Judgments in College Football”  
UHD Faculty Mentor: Dr. Derek de la Pena  
Project Location: University of Houston-Downtown  

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Thank you for participating in the 8th Annual UHD Student Research Conference!  

Please share your impressions of the event by completing a conference evaluation.  

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